

Atty. Docket No. JP919990227US1
(590.049)

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection present in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-8, 10-15, and 17-18 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Applicant notes with gratitude that Claims 10-12, 17, and 18 have now been allowed. Of the remaining claims, Claims 1, 8 and 15 are independent claims. Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been rewritten. Applicants intend no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by these amendments. It should also be noted these amendments are not in acquiescence of the Office's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

Claims 1-5, 8, 13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama et al., U.S. Patent 5,872,924 (Nakayama) in view of Noveck et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,832,363 (Noveck). Claims 6 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama in view of Noveck and in further view of Itakura, U.S. Patent 6,639,608. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama in view of Noveck and in further view of Simonoff, U.S. Patent 6,463,460.

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In the outstanding Office Action, the Office states

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "discriminating objects such that the objects of a selected owner are discriminated from the objects of other owners") are not recited in the rejected claims.

(Office Action at 2) The Office Action continues, "[i]t is also the examiner's position that applicant has not yet submitted claims drawn to limitations, which define the operation and apparatus of applicant's disclosed invention in a manner than distinguishes over the prior art." (Office Action at 3)

In order to expedite prosecution, independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 have now been rewritten to recite "displaying the object on the screen in a manner such that **objects associated with the owner identifier are discriminated from objects associated with other owner identifiers**" (Claim 1; emphasis added) and "program code for displaying the owner identifier on the screen by means of superposition at one of starting and finishing points of the obtained object, and other points of the obtained object, **such that objects associated with the obtained owner identifier are discriminated from objects associated with other owner identifiers.**" (Claims 8 and 15; emphasis added)

Applicant believes that Claims 1, 8 and 15, as presently amended, appropriately incorporate the features relied upon the previous Amendment. Thus, the Applicant's previous remarks submitted in the Amendments dated April 28, 2006 and October 5, 2005 -- including those remarks directed towards discrimination of objects --- continue to be appropriate and are not repeated here in the interests of brevity.

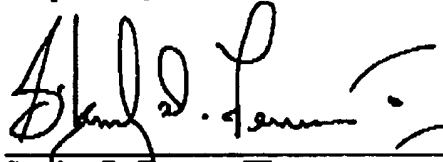
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In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims
Claims 1, 8, and 15 fully distinguish over the applied art and are thus allowable. By
virtue of dependence from these claims, it is thus also submitted that Claims 2-7 and 13-
14 are also allowable at this juncture.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including
Claims 1-8 and 13-15, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is
hereby earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner
is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below prior to the
issuance of a further Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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